



PATENT
Attorney Docket YOR20000548US2
IBM-281

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Gareth Geoffrey Hougham
Serial Number : 09/834,848
Filing Date : April 13, 2001
Examiner : John J. Zimmerman
Group Art Unit : 1775
For : DEFORMABLE COATED WICK
LIQUID SPILLED MATERIAL
TRANSFER

Do Not Enter 6/1/05
To: The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 22, 2005 please amend the
above-identified application as set forth in Appendix A.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)
as being anticipated by Yan (U.S. Patent 5,322,628).

The present invention relates to the handling of materials where it is necessary to transfer
a spilled quantity of a material from the location where the spillage occurred to a different
location and in some instances to storage. With certain materials environmental problems are
present. The material in the present invention is liquid metal mercury. The setting for the use of